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LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint communiqué on the working meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, signed on 16 July 1999 in Tashkent (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the
Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) R. ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the
Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) A. VOHIDOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the
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to the United Nations

Annex

Joint communiqué on the working meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan

On 16 July 1999, a working meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan was held in Tashkent.

During the meeting, which took place in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere, matters related to the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on All-Round Cooperation among the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, signed by the three Presidents on 12 October 1998, were discussed.

The Ministers emphasized the importance of the arrangements made in the Declaration for the strengthening of relations among the three countries and the development of ties in the economic, humanitarian and other fields and of multifaceted cooperation in the international arena, in the interest of maintaining peace, security and stability in the region.

Broad agreement was reached on the mechanisms for cooperation in the areas stipulated in the Declaration, including regular trilateral contacts among the heads of the foreign policy and other interested departments, and joint consultations at various levels, in particular with a view to counteracting the spread of aggressive religious and other extremism and combating terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit traffic in drugs and arms.

In the context of their discussion of the current problems in the Central Asian region, the Ministers agreed on the need to step up international efforts to stabilize the situation in Tajikistan on the basis of the Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan, signed in Moscow on 27 June 1997, and to facilitate economic and social development in Tajikistan.

The Ministers noted the importance of close coordination of action in order to end the conflict in Afghanistan as soon as possible and achieve a political solution in that country. The parties believe that the path to peace in Afghanistan lies in constructive dialogue between the warring factions under United Nations auspices, and with the active support of interested States, with a view to establishing a broadly representative coalition Government. The Ministers noted in that context the significance of the forthcoming meeting of the Group of Neighbours and Friends of Afghanistan (the "6 + 2" Group) in Tashkent, which could serve as a constructive impetus to the international peacemaking efforts in Afghanistan.

The parties affirmed their fundamental position regarding the need to settle disputes and conflicts arising in today's world exclusively through political means, on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the universally recognized standards of international law and with the unconditional

maintenance of the central role of the United Nations Security Council in solving problems of international and regional security.

(Signed) Igor IVANOV	(Signed) Talbak NAZAROV	(Signed) Abdulaziz KAMILOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation	Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan	Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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